



GATEWAY GAZETTE

GATEWAY AWARDS HONORS COMMUNITY STALWARTS

Roxbury Community College held its first Gateway Community Awards on Friday February 24, 2006 on the main stage of the Media Arts Building. The awards were presented to four persons who have and continue to make outstanding contributions to the development of the community. These individuals were chosen based on their continuous contribution to, and involvement in the community. CBS4 correspondent Liz Walker, Former Statesman Mel King, Councilor Sam Yoon and Philanthropist Joan Reznikoff were all outstanding citizens of community and state were the first recipient of the awards.

Many dignitaries were in attendance as were high ranking officials of the school including, Vice President of Enrollment Management, Stephanie Janey, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Brenda Mercomes and Mark Garth, Director of Career and Transfer Services.

RCC President Dr. Terrence Gomes heaped praises on all four awardees for the contributions they have made and encouraged the gathering to join with RCC as the college moves forward in a new direction.

The festivities began with the music of cellist Tony Rymer, followed by the elegance and symmetry of the Origination Dance Group, Girls of Imani, who entertained the small gathering.

In accepting her award Miss Walker highlighted her deep affection for Roxbury Community College and spoke briefly of her work in Darfur, Sudan. Councilor Yoon spoke about connecting the new generation of which he, as the first Asian elected councilor, would be pursuing, with all the generations and ethnic population in the city.

Joan Reznikoff was gracious in acceptance of her award and was humbled by the naming of the Lobby of the Media Arts Building in her honor. Elder statesman Mel King seem humbled by the occasion and accepted his award while acknowledging the work of his parents in preparing him to work to makes other lives better.

After the awards ceremony, the gathering made their way over to Symphony Hall, where they were treated to a superb performance from the Boston Symphony Orchestra under the brilliant leadership of conductor James Levin.



**Mel King poses with his award with
Dean Of Business Dept Dr. Rita Padmore
and RCC President Dr. Terrence Gomes**

Photo: Milton Samuels

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[APR 2006]

Administration

Profile on Patrick Jean Louis IT Department Othneil Wilson

Patrick Jean Louis knows Roxbury Community College. He has seen it from both sides, as a student and as an administrator. Patrick was a student here between 1991 and 1994, a task that seemed formidable then for a young Haitian immigrant, fresh out of high school. "One African American student told me he thought we all slept on trees", he said. Now he is in charge of the school's Information Technology Department, that produces challenges on a daily basis.

Patrick arrived in America in November of 1990. Like most other Haitian immigrants, he had difficulty overcoming the language barrier. He enrolled at RCC in the Fall of 1991 and majored in Computer Information System. His time here helped to improve his language skills. The environment at RCC was different then than it is today he feels. "Clubs were very active then in organizing activities for the students. Activities such as Caribbean Focus, exposing students to other countries and culture. Even members of the community would participate," he states. However, he feels the influx of immigrants both to the school and to state has helped to lessen the effect of such activities, since we have now become such a multicultural society, people are learning from each just by interacting with each other on a daily basis.



Photos: Top – Patrick Jean Louis year book picture 1994 and now in 2006. Below- new computers in room 325



Continued on page 7

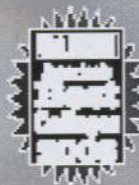


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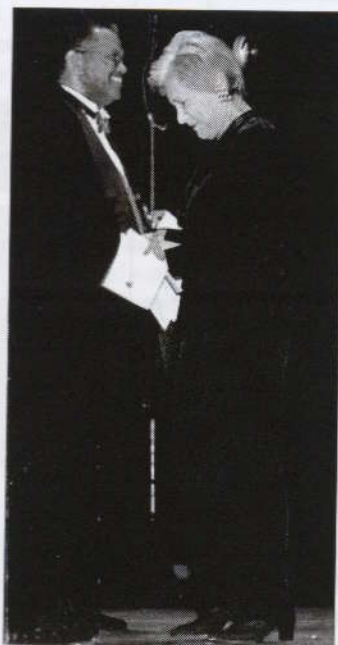
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Gateway Awards Pictorial

An Evening At Roxbury Community College and the Boston Symphony Orchestra

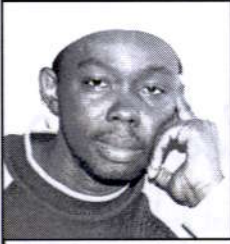


l-r: RCC President Terrence Gomes delivering the main address. OriginaTions Dance Group Girls of Imani and Cellist Tony Rymer part of the evenings entertainment.



l-r: CBS4 correspondent Elizabeth Walker being present her award by RCC Writing Center Coordinator Judy Kahalas. Joan Reznikoff and Councilor Sam Yoon receiving their awards from RCC Foundation President Robert Williams and Mike Walker respectively.

Editorial



Heroes

Everybody has heroes. We look to them to provide excitement to our mundane existence. They plant seeds of hope in our hearts in our darkest hours and guide us through difficult times. Many persons look to superstar athletes and entertainment celebrities when choosing heroes. They look up to them and model their lifestyles after them. We mistakenly put these persons on such high pedestals that often; they fail to live up to such high expectations. Meanwhile we ignore the ordinary folks around us who strive daily to make our lives better with neither the need nor the desire for recognition.

While searching for the solution of how to finance coming back to school for my last semester (oh what a joy!), after searching everywhere and contacting everyone I knew, in vain, I finally ended up in the office of the President of Roxbury Community College, Dr. Terrence Gomes. I had already given up hope and expected nothing but to be turned away again with any more solutions to my problems. There I met up on a wonderful lady called Shirley Leslie, Senior Assistant to the President and my hopes were restored.

No, she didn't give me any money nor did she tell me where I could get some, but the way she took on my problems, trying in no small measure to help me find solutions lifted my spirits immensely. This lady had, in all probability, never laid eyes on me before that day, but that didn't seem to matter to her. She treated like I was her own son and thus she had to find a solution.

As it turns out I found my way back to school and this is due in no small measure to the efforts of the President himself and Vice President Stephanie Janey. It must be pointed out, however, and I have saved the best for last, that the words of encouragement and counseling that I have received from a very powerful dynamo in a small package, that goes by the name of Judy Kahalas, was instrumental in helping me to keep my sanity. I could not have lasted through all those difficult times without the efforts that these people have made. I truly thank you all. You have my undying gratitude.

If it seems I have gotten away from the point of heroes let me break it down for you. These are people we see everyday at school who try their very best give to help us students. They number among my list of heroes and role models. Most of us consistently take these efforts for granted. We don't place the work these people do in the same high regard as we do the work of athletes and celebrities who actually care more about themselves than they do about their fans. Yet they deserve it so much more. To deal with us students everyday cannot be the easiest job in the world. Yet they show up everyday to try and formulate new plans to ensure that we are better prepared to face the world and in many cases make more money that they ever will. Once in a while it doesn't hurt just to say thanks.

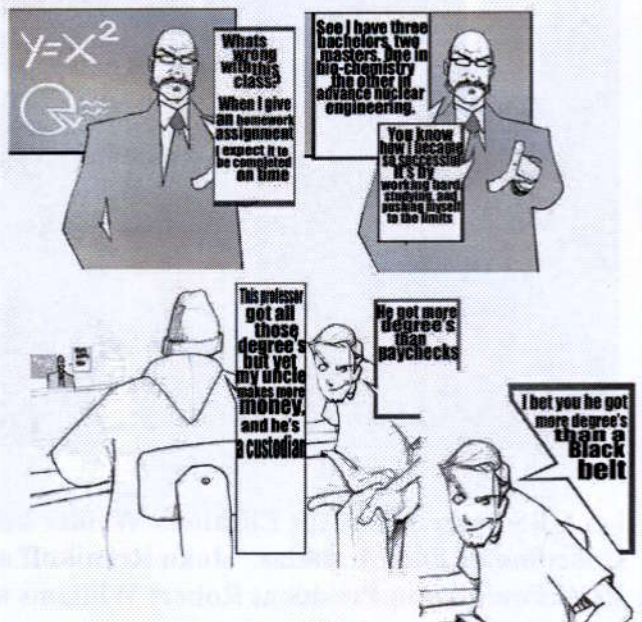
Double Time Kizzy Aponte

How are we as students supposed to meet our graduation requirements if we are not able to take our required classes? I set out to answer this question, because as a BMT (Broadcast Media Technology) student I am required to take Journalism. Yet it was offered at the same time as my other BMT classes. This dilemma is irritating students and teachers across campus. "We are not the ones responsible for this occurrence in schedule matters; we merely input the classes being offered into the system", responds Registrar Quinton Wilder, when I ask him how this matter can be rectified. "Furthermore, the department heads need to make the classes conducive to the requirements of the students and be mindful to not overlap classes, Wilder states.

This problem of the "department heads", according to the Registrar is a matter for the department heads to solve. Justin Petty, the BMT professor and mentor to many students, came to the rescue of those of us who are required to take Journalism. Along with the journalism teacher, he polled the BMT students and came up with a time and day to run the class and – viola - problem solved! Hopefully this will not occur next semester, we can only keep our fingers crossed that the department heads get it together so we students are able to meet our graduation requirements and leave RCC prepared and properly educated with our required classes completed.

Student BODY¹⁰¹

Gregory Saint-Dick



RCC Student Profile

Monte Evans Nicolee Grant



I met up with Eric "Monte" Evans at the cafeteria in the Student Center building. He was having lunch; so to break the ice I decided to drink a Jamaican tropical punch. Turned out he too was having a tropical punch along with soup. He sat by himself, cap with the NFL logo, on backwards. He was wearing a NFL jersey, number 81 written across the sleeves, front and back, blue jeans pants and Jordan sneakers. I later learnt that most of his wardrobe consisted of Jordon ensembles. My curiosity about the man sitting across from me was further peaked when I observed the "bling" that adorned his neck, both wrists and left ear. Because of the noise, the interview was conducted in his office, situated on the 3rd floor of the Student Center building, which housed the Student Government Association. Monte is the Vice President and Giselle O' Brady is the President. As soon as we were seated, Monte began discussing his role as Vice President of SGA. I had other ideas. It was obvious we were both a little uneasy.

NG: Where are you from? (I hoped this would break the tension).

EE: North Carolina. Where are you from?

NG: Who is doing the interview? Jamaica.

EE: My ex is from Jamaica.

NG: Great we have something in common.

EE: You are not going to write that, are you?

NG: What?

EE: That my ex is from Jamaica.

NG: Yes. We all need a little gossip.

EE: Fine but write that I date every one, all nations. After all, my father is from Panama and my mother is an America.

'If a student has a problem with a grade from a professor or feels that they are being treated unfairly, we intervene by finding a middle ground.'



By now we were completely at ease and I understood his earlier statement about being very charismatic.

NG: Tell me a little about yourself before Roxbury Community College.

EE: I went to West Robertson High in North Carolina. I am a sport fanatic. I played football and basketball; corner back, wide receiver and guard respectively. I was also an all star. I have three brothers and two sisters, my father died in 1996 and my mom

is still in North Carolina. My aunt works in the cafeteria (I notice the note of pride in his voice at the mention of his aunt), and I have a two year old daughter.

NG: What is it like now that your father is dead?

EE: He shrugged. "My mother pretty much raised us.

NG: What brought you to Massachusetts?

EE: I met my daughter's mother in DC, came down for a visit and have not looked back since.

NG: What is the function of the Student Government Association?

EE: We look out for the best interest of the students. If a student has a problem with a grade from a professor or feels that they are being treated unfairly, we intervene by finding a middle ground.

NG: Middle ground?

EE: We get together with the dean and, the professor and student and come to a resolution that is acceptable to all.

NG: Have you ever had a difficult situation where an issue could not be resolved.

EE: No. I am upfront and straight to the point. I am not afraid to admit when I am wrong. I pretty much stand firm on a point once it

has been determined that that is the right point and is in the best interest of all the parties involved and the school."

NG: Do you believe that the low graduation rate would increase if there was more interest on the parts of some of the students to excel academically and, if some professor where to go above and beyond their call of duty in terms of instructing students ? academically.

EE: Both sides must work as a team. I left high school in 1993, spent four years in the military; when I came back to school in 2004,

it was hard. I did badly in my first semester but then I decided that this was my life and I have to make something of it. I cannot afford to say, "Oh my tuition is paid, so I can float around with no cares in the world." I had to make my mind up to work hard.

NG: If neither you nor Giselle are not at the student center where can the students go?

EE: They can go to the student activities in the student building and seems. Ms. Elizabeth Clark.

NG: Well Monte keep up the good work.

GAZETTE CULTURE

RCC HAPPENINGS

CBS Journalist Liz Walker Speaks on Darfur, Sudan



PANEL DISCUSSION ON FIRST FEMALE AFRICAN HEAD OF STATE



Patrick Jean Louis

Continued from page 2

After graduation in 1994 he attended night school at Suffolk University while working full time at RCC. Three years later he felt the urge to be in more of a business environment. He left RCC to become Network Administrator for the main office of Management Sciences for Health, a company that did work mainly for the United States Agency for International Development. This company had offices in 26 different countries and his main task was to set up networks in several of these countries.

This allowed him to travel all over the world but mainly to South and Eastern Africa. He encountered a lot of racial bias while in South Africa but was determined not let that get in his way. "I believe once you set your mission and your goals, you should not procrastinate but get on with it. I encountered racial bias right here in Boston too," he said, somehow managing to ooze confidence while at the same time remaining totally humble. After four years he moved to Florida and opened an IT consulting firm. He operated this business for three years before the events of September 11, 2001 caused business to dry up.

His search for employment then led him back to RCC in 2002 to faces that were familiar to him from his time as a student. But the environment was different. People were now more willing, he says, to make quick decisions to force a change when it is needed in order to improve the school and make it better able to compete with other community colleges.

Patrick's mission since returning to RCC is to gradually improve all computer labs semester by semester. Already the fruits of this can be seen in the brand new computer lab in room 325 which now boast state of the art facilities. Internet connections have also improved with the bandwidth now three times faster. "The goal is to get all the computer labs on the same level as the one in (room) 325 in the shortest possible time."

Patrick is married with one child and his presently pursuing two masters degrees in Information Technology. His advice to immigrants who speak a foreign language is, "even though it can be difficult, you can overcome it. The reality is that there will always be more whites in the workplace than blacks but you have to keep moving towards your goals. Remember your goals."

The Gateway Gazette
Othneil Wilson, Editor
Staff Reporters

Gregory St Dick - Cartoons
Theophilus Adjety
Nicolee Grant
Kizzy Aponte
Tracy Moore

Comments and Letters should be sent to the editor at:
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Ask Tracy with Tracy Moore



Dear Tracy,

When a partner cheats on you, when do you say enough is enough and move on?

"Lonely in Love".

That depends on you and when you think enough is enough. Some people give second chances and some don't. In order to know what is best for you, you have to ask yourself; can I forgive him/her? If I can forgive him/her, how long will I hold it against him/her? Can I see myself with this person long term? If you have a negative answer for every question, the answer is Move On.

Dear Tracy,

Two years ago, a friend asked me to be in her wedding. Since then, we have drifted apart. I am short on money and she has better friends. Can I ask out of the wedding or am I stuck?

"In a Bind".

I love weddings - I think just for the cake, but if you're out of money then those expensive shoes, dress and purse can buy you books for school and help pay for tuition. Just give your friend a call and let her know you can't attend. If she asks why tell her that it's been a long time and you're so occupied with other stuff that you can't possibly add this into the mix. Since you've drifted apart,, she shouldn't take it to heart.

Dear Tracy,

Why don't men appreciate what they have?

"Hazel"

There are all kinds of individuals on God's green earth that will never appreciate anything for as long as they live. Sometimes it's because they don't realize what they have until it's gone. Good Luck!

Upward Bound Program at Roxbury Community College

Theophilus Adjetej

Do you ever wonder about the ubiquitous presence of high school students on the RCC campus? What are they doing here and who is responsible for them? Well wonder no longer. The presence of high school students on campus is part of the Upward Bound Program at RCC headed by Mr. Michael Neita.

The Upward Bound program at Roxbury Community College is a federally-funded college preparatory program that provides academic support to Boston Public high school students in their preparation for post secondary education. "We provide opportunities for participants to successfully graduate from high school and ultimately from a college of their choice, equipped with the necessary academic, social and financial skills."

The program services Boston Public high school students from low-income families and/or families, in which neither parent holds a college degree, who are preparing to enter postsecondary education. The primary goal is to increase the rates at which students of low-income families enroll in and graduate from institutions of post-secondary education.



Micheal Neita pictured with some of the state of the art musical and computer equipment used in the upward bound program

The Upward Bound program at RCC is unlike other pre-college programs serving residents of Boston. The focus is on implementation of an integrated curriculum that utilizes digital media technology to engage student learning. Covering the gamut from lessons in fractions, equations, geometry, patterns, relationships, problem-solving, to creative activities such as computer-based music composition and production. The emphasis of this curriculum is on helping students to develop their own creative and problem-solving abilities via traditional and non-traditional pedagogical approaches. As such, students enjoy access to RCC resources, a digital media laboratory equipped with Reason 2.5, a music production software; Piano Suite, Midi keyboards, Web-design/Multimedia and Algebra I software. Students also receive weekly tutoring, academic advising, and classroom instructions in Language Arts, Science, Latin, Algebra I, Geometry, and Digital Music Production during the regular academic school year. In the summer, July to August, students also participate in an intensive six (6) weeks academic program of activities that include classroom instructions, overnights at Northeastern University, and field trips to various parts of the United States, visiting educational and cultural sites.

Since 1999, the program has provided academic support to over 250 Boston high school students from Hyde Park High, Madison Park High, Jeremiah Burke High, English High, Snowden High, J.D.O' Bryant, Dorchester, New Mission High, among others. Each participant in the program is paid a small stipend of forty (40) dollars during the regular academic year and \$60.00 during the summer session. In addition, qualified high school juniors and seniors are assigned work-study slots within the various departments at RCC campus, June to August, and each received a stipend of \$300 per month.

In addition to his duties as director of the Upward Bound program at RCC, Mr. Neita has been a community activist since 1972, in Jamaica and elsewhere. He has traveled extensively throughout Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean representing youth groups. He was also a contributor to a major study that examines the impact of the International Monetary Fund's policy of structural adjustment on low-income communities. This study was published later as A Fate Worst Than Debt.

Mr. Neita is a graduate of Boston University with a Masters Degree in Urban Affairs. He is also engaged in the management of artists, working closely with Michael Rose, lead vocalist of the Grammy winning Black Uhuru. You can also hear him every Saturday morning at WZBC Newton, 90.3FM, where host's and produces "Talk Reggae," a weekly show that uses reggae to explore the West Indian immigrant experience in Boston.

Mr. Neita and his staff at Upward Bound at RCC are appreciated by young students such as Scarlett Foston, a junior at The Media Communication and Technology High School of West Roxbury. Scarlett attests to the invaluable opportunity provided by the Upward Program at RCC, "no one judges me here and there are less students so I can learn more from the teacher on what I don't understand." Scarlett enjoys the English class taught by Mr. Dingle who brings the language to life by explaining the Greek and Latin origins of words and relating them to their current usage. Scarlett, a Merit of Honor student, has gained academic confidence and insight through Upward Bound at RCC.

Editors note: The Upward Bound Program is presently trying to recruit work study students. Interested person can contact Mr. Neita in Room 519

A collage of 14 black and white photographs of African American athletes and entertainers. The images include: a man shouting with his hand raised; a woman smiling; a man playing a trumpet; a man in a suit; a man in a boxing ring; a man in a baseball uniform; a man with glasses; a man with a mustache; a man in a suit; a man in a boxing ring; a man in a baseball uniform; a man in a suit; a man in a boxing ring; and a man in a baseball uniform.

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Young RCC Entrepreneurs

RCC student Olritch Germain, pictured right, a budding entrepreneur, introduces one of his many projects. His company, OG Entertainment Limited, is on the rise. Germain introduces one of the many projects he has been working on to the RCC community.



Music to Business Entrepreneur
Kenny D. W. Presents
Musical Emotions Entertainment and Recordings

K. Duece

"An Artist of Inspiring Words"



Kenny D.W. a.k.a. K. Duece, a Boston based universal artist/entertainer is opening closed doors with a new inspirational vibes that will launch into the millennium and beyond. His music features R&B, Inspirational Rap, Gospel, Reggae and Urban Contemporary. K. Duece is a good example of someone who is committed to exceeding leadership achievements. He is an artist, entertainer and songwriter. It does not stop there! K Duece also produces R&B, Rap and Inspirational Gospel music.

"My music is universal for the world to listen to", says the Music to Business Entrepreneur while sitting in his third floor home/studio/office. K. Duece displays business savvy, as the founder of Musical Emotions Entertainment. He provides artist management, promotion, marketing, analyst, talent scouting, hook master, demo prep, video concepts, tour director and financial advice. He also finds the time to assist programs for local organizations for the youth while developing plans for his own community-based organization called L.C.E.

He started his venture towards the music industry at the tender age of seven. He came with his own unique style of rhyme and diversity. Creatively involving himself in beat boxing, singing, rapping and acting. It was evident at even such a young age that he would grow up to be an inspired and joyful individual. K. Duece says, "I'm an artist with inspirational words! All around comes my pen and pad. My words speak to the outside of the world filled with no-way out. But the light within me makes me see who I am. God is within me reaching out to the next horizon of my past, present and future". Duece pauses to say, "I feel the call for soul searching."

K. Duece has a proven record of accomplishment with successful reviews from concert performances. He has performed with headliners such as *Public Enemy*, *Armard*, *the Lynch Mob*, *Donell Jones*, *KeKe Wyatt*, *Lloyd Banks* and platinum recording artists *112*. Numerous fans were left begging for more K. Duece who had the support of his team players *Four Corners Lox Security* and *The Supreme Team Ryders*.

The time has come for K. Duece to reach the next level. So get ready Boston! Be on the lookout and show some love for the Let It Rain EP/Album from Boston's own K. Duece and his expression about his time to prosper in and outside of the music business on his way to the top.

For event listings and bookings please e-mail.
musicalemotionsent@yahoo.com